

lives for the values and unalienable privileges that Old Glory emulates. How dare our countrymen have the vile audacity to dishonor the memories of our veterans and our hallowed history? Captain William Driver reflected the true American spirit as he proclaimed, "Thank God! I lived to raise Old Glory . . . I am now ready to die and go to my forefathers" (Adams, 26).

The media shows day after day how American citizens cling to the philosophy of basic human rights in a democratic society. We should hold the Stars and Stripes, the cloak of our very freedom, dear to our hearts with an equal conviction. Charles W. Stewart laced this concept with eloquence as he reflected, "The Stars and Stripes is our sign of national sovereignty and unity. It is a symbol of the Constitution as the cross is a symbol of Christianity" (Krythe, 26). We should value our flag's worth as we value our very existence in this grand nation.

In 1989, our Supreme Court, through *Texas v. Johnson*, invalidated the flag-protection laws in 48 states and the District of Columbia (CFA, 3). Currently, five national surveys show that 80 percent of Americans support a flag-protection amendment (CFA, 1). A government should conform to the wishes of the majority of its citizens. Our forefathers were indeed wise as they anticipated the changing needs and demands of future generations. They set forth two possible routes for amendments. Firstly, two-thirds of the state legislatures may call a convention for the proposing of amendments. In addition, two-thirds of the Senate and House can propose an amendment (Ritchie, 59). This wisely crafted system of checks and balances has truly kept our country operated by its citizens.

Among many basic rights, the first amendment of our Constitution prohibits the government from restricting freedom of speech (Ritchie, 65). An American's right to speak out for one's beliefs was born in the colonial era and has remained a unique component of our nation thereafter. The Supreme Court has grossly contorted the intention of this freedom and has made a mockery of it for the world to scorn. Freedoms must have limitations for humans to live in harmony. If no boundaries are enforced, chaos will certainly ensue. The "clear and present" danger system of limiting freedoms should extend to desecrating the flag (Ritchie, 67). Consequently, when 80% of Americans are extremely offended by the defacing of our most treasured symbols, the possibility for clear and present danger is imminent and inevitable.

Vital steps do exist to allow the American people to have a voice concerning the preserving of Old Glory. Laws should reflect the feelings of the majority, not the whims of a minority. A democracy is a government of action. Inaction does not hold a place in our thriving nation. Many steps can be taken by citizens to make positive changes in our government. It is an American's right to contact members of congress, contact the news media, write an editorial, talk via radio, and circulate petitions and materials to show support for his cause (CFA 1). Every true believer in the United States of America should take these steps to save and preserve our beloved flag.

If we want our great, democratic nation to survive, then we must save the banner of our triumphs and freedoms. If our symbol of freedom is destroyed, then our nation will surely follow. By losing respect for our American flag, we ultimately sacrifice the right to refer to ourselves as "The land of the free and the home of the brave." In essence, we would merely reduce ourselves to "The land of the ungrateful and the home of the misguided." Why worry about foreign nations

stealing our freedoms when we are perfectly willing to sacrifice them free of charge? We must protect our Stars and Bars as adamantly as we fight for our very rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A wise President, Calvin Coolidge, summarized the necessity of our respect for the flag as he urged, "It will be futile merely to show outward respect of our National Emblem if we do not cherish in our hearts, an unquenchable love for, and devotion to, the unseen which it represents" (Adams, 30). Seeing our flag flutter majestically in the air should move every American to tears. We should be inspired to be profoundly grateful for the great human sacrifices that have provided us with a rare nation; a nation where all citizens, regardless of race, sex, religion, or wealth have the right to pursue their dreams and reach for the "stars".

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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"Francis Scott Key." *World Book*. 1987 ed. Krythe, Maymie R. *What So Proudly We Hail*. New York: Harper and Row, 1968.

Ritchie, Donald A. *The U.S. Constitution*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989. ●

#### APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to P.L. 103-227, appoints the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board: Jon A. Reeves, of Mississippi, Representative of Business; Ronald K. Robinson, of Mississippi, Representative of Labor; and Earline N. Ashley, of Mississippi, Representative of Human Resources.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928a-1928d, as amended, appoints the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) as a member of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the Second Session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, May 22-27, 1998.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 560, 561, 598 and 599. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action,

and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Paul J. Hoeper, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Sue Bailey, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

#### THE JUDICIARY

William P. Dimitrouleas, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Stephen P. Mickle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1998

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 15th. I further ask unanimous consent that on Friday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. I further ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon on Monday, May 18, the Senate proceed to consideration of S. 1723, the Abraham immigration legislation under the consent agreement of May 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon. As a reminder, there will be no votes during Friday's session. A cloture motion was filed today on the motion to proceed to the tobacco legislation. That vote will occur on Monday at a time to be determined by the two leaders, but not prior to 5 p.m.

Also, at noon on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1723, the Abraham immigration legislation. Therefore, Members can expect a roll-call vote on cloture and additional votes with respect to the immigration legislation Monday evening.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous